

International Youth Foundation

Title	International Youth Foundation (IYF)
Coverage	International
Organization/enterprise	Network of partner organizations
Topic	Vocational training
Target group and outreach	The International Youth Foundation (IYF) prepares young people to be healthy, productive and engaged citizens.
Purpose	Founded in 1990, IYF's worldwide network of partner organizations has grown to 70 countries, helping young people to shape their future through proven programmes that tie education to work, improve employability, and enable and inspire them to play a positive role in their communities.
Key features	<p>(1) Multi-stakeholder initiative</p> <p>(2) Focuses on training on core work skills and strengthening youth leadership</p> <p>(3) Learning from the local level, brings best practices to the international level/network</p>
Strategy and approach	<p>IYF collaborates with businesses, governments and civil society organizations that share a common desire to improve the life conditions and prospects of youth through effective and sustainable programmes that positively impact the lives of young people worldwide. It works through a worldwide network of youth-serving organizations that collaborate on a global scale and yet are deeply engaged in addressing youth issues in their own countries. This global network reflects the belief that those closest to the challenges are those best able to address them. Each partner organization is a leader in youth development, grounded in local culture, and committed to identifying and supporting “best practice” programmes.</p> <p>IYF seeks to increase the quality and quantity of investments in proven programmes by forging strategic partnerships among the business, government and civil society sectors.</p> <p>IYF concentrates on the following four areas of activities through “skills for life” training – critical thinking, conflict resolution, effective communications and teamwork – in all of its global youth initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: ensuring that children and youth, both in and out of school, have access to quality education and increased opportunities to learn • Employability: building young people’s employment and entrepreneurial skills so they can secure jobs and livelihoods in which they find dignity and earn an income that meets their needs • Health: preparing children and youth to lead healthy lives by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make informed, healthy choices • Leadership and engagement: promoting opportunities for young people to exercise their full leadership potential in order to effect positive social change in their communities <p>IYF also works to increase global awareness of children and youth issues, strengthen the organizational skills of leaders of youth programmes, and</p>

	<p>promote greater knowledge and application of best practices for young people. The net aim of these efforts is to increase the effectiveness, scale, and sustainability of proven approaches to meeting young people's needs.</p>
Partners	<p>Together IYF and its partners build effective and sustainable programmes that positively impact the lives of young people worldwide.</p> <p>While business leaders have long supported youth issues, IYF creates vehicles through which companies can invest in youth employment within a structured framework. IYF and its country partners work together to make sound investments in positive youth development through a variety of financial mechanisms, including unrestricted grants, donor-advised funds and challenge grants.</p> <p>Many of these multi-sectoral partnerships are multi-million dollar initiatives carried out in multiple countries, funded over a period of three to five years. IYF also partners with multilateral institutions such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).</p> <p>Other partners include Alcatel-Lucent Technologies, Chevron, General Electric, Intel, Kellogg, Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Nike and Nokia.</p>
Major achievements	<p>IYF and its global network of in-country partners have helped a large number of young people gain access to the life skills, education, job training and opportunities critical to their success.</p>
Additional information	<p>USAID Awards International Youth Foundation with "Alliance of the Year for 2006": http://www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2007/pr070221_1.html</p> <p>Alliance for African Youth Employability: http://www.ayaonline.org/</p> <p>Entra 21: http://www.iyfnet.org/section.cfm/5/24/800</p>
Address	<p>International Youth Foundation 32 South Street, Suite 500 Baltimore MD 21202 USA Phone: +1-410-951-1500 Fax: +1-410-347-1188 Email: youth@iyfnet.org</p>
Internet link	<p>http://www.iyfnet.org/</p>

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